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Redding's pot rules moving forward

City's Planning Commission signed off on proposed regulations for industry

Sean Longoria
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

Redding moved closer to allowing recreational marijuana businesses Tuesday after the city's Planning Com-

mission signed off on proposed rules for the commercial cannabis industry.

The commission's approval clears the way for the City Council to vote on the matter March 6. If adopted, Redding's rules would take effect in late April.

The commission on Tuesday was asked to weigh in on zoning rules that restrict where retail dispensaries and other operations can exist. The City Council last year already approved allowing commercial cannabis in city limits and directed City Attorney Barry DeWalt to craft rules for approval.

Still, some at the meeting spoke to whether the city should allow commercial pot in the first place.

"I don't want any marijuana in the

county or the city," Peter Scales said.

Others encouraged the city to allow growers in spaces outside industrial zones, which the commission recommended the council consider. Only general and heavy industrial districts can host other commercial cannabis uses — distribution, processing, testing and storage, according to the draft rules.

Redding currently allows growing of

See POT, Page 4A

Food Truck Friday returns to City Hall



Food Truck Friday will take place at the plaza outside the Community Room at Redding City Hall. DAVID BENDA

Organizers: It could be a monthly event

David Benda
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

They've been a hit in Anderson River Park and Redding's Caldwell Park.

It seems Shasta County can't get enough of food trucks, which is why

Redding City Hall this week hosts its second Food Truck Friday. Organizers are thinking this could become a monthly event.

Tacos Locos, What the Truck, Yellow Lunchbox, Roadrunner Grill and American BBQ will serve 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the plaza south of the Community Room

off Cypress Avenue.

Misty Rhoads, executive assistant to City Manager Barry Tippin, organized Friday's event. She also organized the first Food Truck Friday on Jan. 19.

But last month's pop-up food truck court at City Hall was more low-key.

Rhodes on Monday announced Fri-

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Medical marijuana users want judge to declare drug safe under federal law

Karen Matthews
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Army veteran Jose Belen says the horrors of the Iraq War left him with post-traumatic stress disorder, and the drug that helped him cope best with the symptoms was one his Veterans Affairs doctors could not legally pre-

scribe: marijuana.

"Once I did use cannabis, immediately I felt the relief," said Belen, who is now working with other medical marijuana users to mount a long-shot court challenge to federal laws criminalizing the drug.

The 35-year-old, married father of two is one of five plaintiffs in a lawsuit

claiming that the government's decision to classify marijuana as dangerous is irrational, unconstitutional and motivated by politics, not hard science.

A government lawyer argued Wednesday before U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein in New York that the

See LAWSUIT, Page 4A

Plan OK'd to break up Sears building

Mt. Shasta Mall space to shrink, house new shops

David Benda
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

An enthusiastic Redding Planning Commission unanimously approved the redevelopment of the Sears building at the Mt. Shasta Mall.

Tuesday's 6-0 vote — Commissioner Randy Memeo was absent — came after a short presentation on the project from Associate Planner Linda Burke.

After Burke's report, Russ Wenham, the project engineer, was the only person to comment publicly.

Work could start later this year.

When complete, the 99,000-square-foot Sears building will be shrunk to 72,400 square feet that will feature a multi-tenant space with two junior anchors and four other stores.

In addition, an 11,000-square-foot building at Dana and Hilltop drives will be built for a fast-food restaurant and retail store. It would sit where a portion of the mall parking lot now exists — an area that's typically been used for seasonal carnivals and pop-up vehicle sales events.

To date, mall management and ownership have not said what will replace Sears, or if the American retail icon is in fact closing for good. The Meadowood Mall in Reno also is redeveloping its Sears building, but a smaller version of Sears will remain in place, the Reno Gazette-Journal recently reported.

After Tuesday's meeting, Doug Pattison, general manager of the Mt. Shasta Mall, would only say that an announcement from the mall's owner, Rouse Properties, is expected soon.

Commissioner Wally St. Clair, who managed the JC Penney store in the Mt. Shasta Mall from 1992 to 2000, believes the improvements will be a tremendous asset to the shopping center and the community. He added that it's encouraging that Rouse is spending so much money on a major remodel.

St. Clair said he looked at the archi-

See SEARS, Page 4A

Good morning!

Becky Luisotti

USA TODAY

Shooting rampage kills 17 at high school in Florida; teacher says suspect is troubled former student. 3A

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